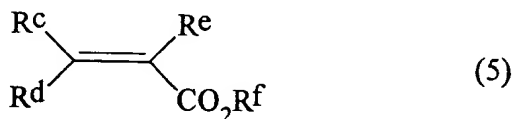
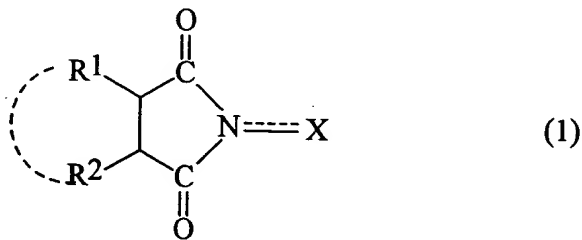


cont  
B1

wherein each of  $R^a$  and  $R^b$  is, identical to or different from each other, a hydrogen atom or an organic group, where  $R^a$  and  $R^b$  may be combined to form a ring with the adjacent carbon atom, to react with (B12) an  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated carboxylic acid derivative shown by the following formula (5):



wherein each of  $R^c$ ,  $R^d$ ,  $R^e$ , and  $R^f$  is, identical to or different from one another, a hydrogen atom or an organic group, where  $R^c$ ,  $R^d$ , and  $R^e$  may be combined to form a ring with the adjacent carbon atom or carbon-carbon bond, in the presence of molecular oxygen by catalysis of an imide compound shown by the following formula (1):

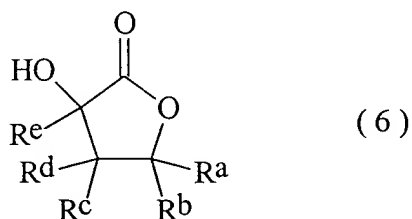


wherein each of  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  is, identical to or different from each other, a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, an alkyl group, an aryl

Cont  
B1

group, a cycloalkyl group, a hydroxyl group, an alkoxy group, a carboxyl group, an alkoxy carbonyl group, or an acyl group, where  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  may be combined to form a double bond, or an aromatic or non-aromatic ring; X is an oxygen atom or a hydroxyl group; and one or two N-substituted cyclic imido groups indicated in the formula (1) may be further bonded to said  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ , or to the double bond or aromatic or non-aromatic ring formed together by  $R^1$  and  $R^2$ ,

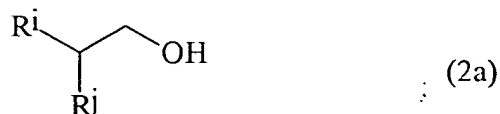
to yield an  $\alpha$ -hydroxy- $\gamma$ -butyrolactone derivative shown by the following formula (6):



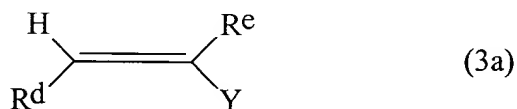
wherein  $R^a$ ,  $R^b$ ,  $R^c$ ,  $R^d$ , and  $R^e$  have the same meanings as defined above.

B2

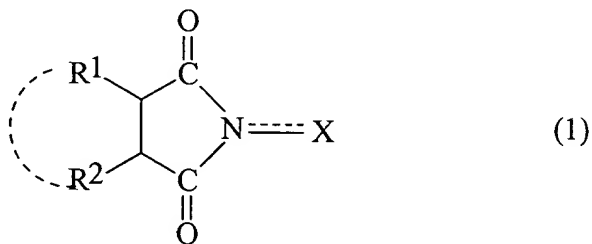
14. (Amended) A process for producing an organic compound according to claim 1, said process comprising the step of allowing (A12) an alcohol shown by the following formula (2a):



Cont  
 B2  
 wherein each of  $R^i$  and  $R^j$  is, identical to or different from each other, a hydrogen atom or an organic group, where  $R^i$  and  $R^j$  may be combined to form a ring with the adjacent carbon atom, to react with (B13) an active olefin shown by the following formula (3a):

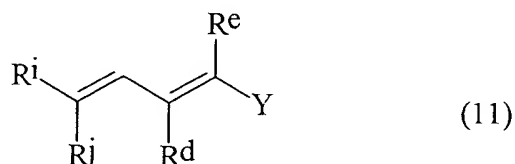


wherein each of  $R^d$  and  $R^e$  is, identical to or different from each other, a hydrogen atom or an organic group; and Y is an electron attracting group, where  $R^d$ ,  $R^e$  and Y may be combined to form a ring with the adjacent carbon atom or carbon-carbon bond, in the presence of molecular oxygen by catalysis of an imide compound shown by the following formula (1):



wherein each of  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  is, identical to or different from each other, a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, an alkyl group, an aryl

*cont*  
B2 group, a cycloalkyl group, a hydroxyl group, an alkoxy group, a carboxyl group, an alkoxycarbonyl group, or an acyl group, where  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  may be combined to form a double bond, or an aromatic or non-aromatic ring; X is an oxygen atom or a hydroxyl group; and one or two N-substituted cyclic imido groups indicated in the formula (1) may be further bonded to said  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ , or to the double bond or aromatic or non-aromatic ring formed together by  $R^1$  and  $R^2$ ,  
to yield a conjugated unsaturated compound shown by the following formula (11):



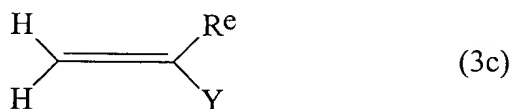
wherein  $R^d$ ,  $R^e$ ,  $R^i$ ,  $R^j$  and Y have the same meanings as defined above.

B3  
18. (Amended) A process for producing an organic compound according to claim 1, said process comprising the step of allowing (A31) a compound having a methine carbon atom and being shown by the following formula (14):

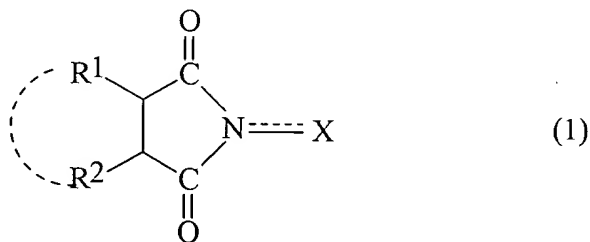


cont  
B3

wherein each of  $R^o$ ,  $R^p$  and  $R^q$  is, identical to or different from one another, an organic group, where  $R^o$ ,  $R^p$ , and  $R^q$  may be combined to form a ring with the adjacent carbon atom, to react with (B15) an active olefin shown by the following formula (3c):



wherein  $R^e$  is a hydrogen atom or an organic group; and Y is an electron attracting group, in the presence of molecular oxygen by catalysis of an imide compound shown by the following formula (1):

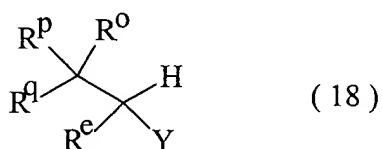


wherein each of  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  is, identical to or different from each other, a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, an alkyl group, an aryl group, a cycloalkyl group, a hydroxyl group, an alkoxy group, a carboxyl group, an alkoxy carbonyl group, or an acyl group, where  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  may be combined to form a double bond, or an aromatic or

cont  
B3

non-aromatic ring; X is an oxygen atom or a hydroxyl group; and one or two N-substituted cyclic imido groups indicated in the formula (1) may be further bonded to said  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ , or to the double bond or aromatic nor non-aromatic ring formed together by  $R^1$  and  $R^2$ ,

to yield an organic compound shown by the following formula (18):



wherein  $R^e$ ,  $R^o$ ,  $R^p$ ,  $R^q$ , and Y have the same meanings as defined above.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version showing the changes made to the application by this Amendment.

---